

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MINNESOTA WATER POLICY

Remote Meeting

AUGUST 18, 2021

2:00 PM

Co-Chairs:

Sen. Chris Eaton (presiding)

Rep. John Poston

Jim Stark, Director

Subcommittee Support: Sandy Most

AGENDA

- **Call to order/approval of Subcommittee minutes from July 9**
- **Drought update, Jason Moeckel, DNR, MPCA staff**
- **Presentation: Protection and preservation of sentinel lakes in Upper Mississippi River Watershed – Dan Steward, BWSR**
- **Presentation: Restored hydrology at Glacial Ridge, NW MN: Improving water quality and reducing flood peaks – Tim Cowdery, USGS**
- **Briefing: Legislative Agenda for 2022 session**
- **Testifiers, if any**
- **Adjourn**

PRESENTATION- DROUGHT UPDATE

- **Drought updates**
 - **Jaspon Moeckel, DNR**
 - **MPCA staff?**

PRESENTATION- LAKE SUPERIOR

- **Protection and preservation of sentinel lakes in Upper Mississippi River Watershed – Dan Steward, BWSR**

PRESENTATION- PRIVATE WELL SAFETY

- **Presentation: Restored hydrology at Glacial Ridge, NW MN: Improving water quality and reducing flood peaks – Tim Cowdery, USGS**

Proposed Legislative Process

▪ **Jim Stark**

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- **Fifty plus legislative issue recommendations: Members and Stakeholders**
- **Surveys used to prioritize: sent to 500 on list-server**
- **Three stakeholder meetings: additional prioritization and input**
- **Legislative issues by topic:**
 - **Water governance**
 - **Water policy**
 - **Other topics**
 - **safe drinking water**
 - **funding**
 - **education**
 - **taxes**
 - **wastewater**
 - **water quality**

GOVERNANCE ISSUES- SURVEY PRIORITIES

G1: SWCD status and funding– finding a solution-- Hearing

G2: Reactivation of Water Supply and Wastewater Advisory Council

G3: Reactivation of the Legislative Water Commission

P1: Update GW Act of 1989- Waiting on MGWA White Paper

G4:Creating a Department of Water Resources

G5: Streamlining water governance and management

WATER POLICY- SURVEY PRIORITIES

- **Evaluate preservation status of streams and lakes of the Upper Miss. Address disconnect between land and water: A plan to move the needle**
- **Plan for changes to water resulting from climate change--including floods and drought**
- **Water-Use Policy: Inter-basin transport protection (Water Train controversy)**
- **Water retention-keep water on the land and urban storm water retention**
- **Environmental justice issues: Lead and other drinking water issues?**
- **Enhanced GW recharge policy– Why, where and when?**

OTHER TOPICS: SURVEY PRIORITIES

- **Water sustainability**: Adequate/clean water for the future--enhanced regional/digital atlas products
- **Safe drinking water**:
 - *Voluntary well testing; water safety planning; increased citizen involvement/ education*
 - *Assessing emerging contaminants in drinking water: pesticides and nutrients; Chloride reduction policy and support for reduction initiatives*
 - *Address forever chemicals in food waste compost- Policy and assessment*
 - *Upgrading drinking water infrastructure—funding and periodization issue*
- **Funding**
 - *Promote healthy soil and healthy water*
 - *Research and outreach: Promoting precision agriculture*
- **Taxes--credit for private riparian buffer set-asides**

NEXT STEPS

- **Final stakeholder meeting- August**
- **Incorporate stakeholder comments**
- **Prepare draft bills**
- **Obtain consensus approval from subcommittee**
- **Determine authors in the House and Senate**
- **Introduce the bills early**
- **Solicit additional bill ideas from Subcommittee members**

QUESTIONS?

➤ **Thanks**

2021 SESSION RECAP

This session we introduced 8 bills:

- **Based on revisions of previous bills and additional issues**
- **Grouped by themes--from the 33 bill ideas**
- **Focused on Water Quantity, Water Quality, Safe Drinking Water, Wastewater, Water Retention, Water Governance and a Buffer Tax Credit**
- **Some parts of these bills moved forward**

2022 SESSION

- **Re-evaluate/revise bills from 2021**
- **Considering 45 relevant water issues**
- **Reduce list to those with greatest support using a survey**
- **Hold 3 stakeholder meetings--feedback on issues with the greatest support**
- **Reach consensus on a subset of bills**
- **Draft bills early fall**

2022 SESSION: BILL CATEGORIES

- **WATER GOVERNANCE**
- **POLICY**
- **SAFE DRINKING WATER**
- **FUNDING**
- **EDUCATION**
- **TAXES**
- **WASTEWATER**
- **WATER QUALITY**

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

FIRST MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 21 AT 10 AM VIA ZOOM

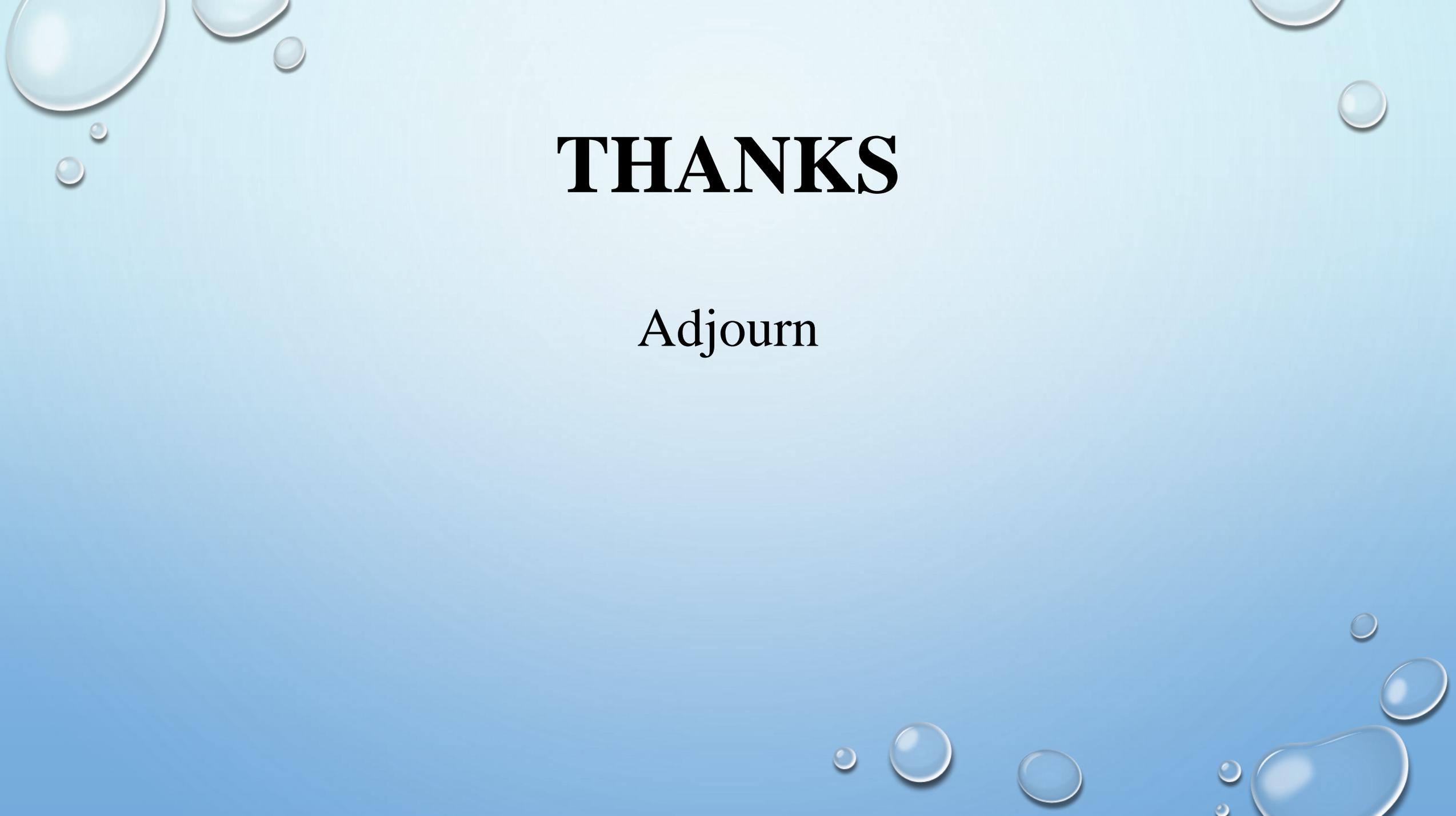
FOCUS WILL BE ON WATER GOVERNANCE— DETAILS ARE POSTED

I'LL INTRODUCE TOPICS AND ASK FOR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS:

- **SWCDS AND WATERSHED DISTRICTS**
- **RE-ACTIVATION OF WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER ADVISORY COUNCIL RANK**
- **GOVERNANCE: RE-ACTIVATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE WATER COMMISSION, RANK**
- **GOVERNANCE: CREATING A DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES RANK**
- **GOVERNANCE: STREAMLINING WATER GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT RANK**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Announcements?**
- **Stakeholder meetings: August 21, 30 (10 am)**
- **Detailed descriptions on web site**
- **Short Subcommittee in August**
- **Clean Water field trip to SW Minnesota**

The background is a light blue gradient. There are several realistic water droplets of various sizes in the corners: top-left, top-right, and bottom-right. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a 3D appearance.

THANKS

Adjourn